South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Three Guard members returning home from Afghanistan

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Three Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Embedded Training Team 'Coyote One' will be arriving in South Dakota tomorrow, Wednesday, Jan. 14 after spending a year-long deployment in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. John Weber and Master Sgt. Phil Lakner will return home at 9:31 a.m. (MDT) at the Rapid City Regional Airport on United Airlines, and Capt. Jayme Trygstad will return at 10:25 a.m. (CDT) at the Sioux Falls Airport on United Airlines.

One additional team member has volunteered to extend his tour for an additional three months and is expected to return in early spring 2009.

A welcome home ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20, at the Duke Corning Armory located on Camp Rapid.

The team deployed in January 2008 with the assigned mission to provide training and mentorship to the Afghanistan National Army and Police and was stationed at various locations throughout the country.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror. Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.